

Staff Spotlight

ALEXANDREA LOPEZ

I have been with the department for 4 years. I started with IDOC in 2016 as a Psychiatric Technician in Unit 16 at ISCI. I love working in mental health and hope to work in mental health/offender treatment again someday.

I currently hold a position at ISCC as a Correctional Case Manager in G-Block which is the closed custody unit. I thoroughly enjoy working in this unit because of the security mindset, teamwork, and the people I get to work with every day. I am also a member of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team. The team at ISCC has been amazing! They are supportive and want you to succeed which I appreciate.

What is a typical day like?

The population I work with is a little different from General Population. I work with Closed Custody. Therefore, a typical day would be coming into work, going to the morning meeting, working with security staff to get inmates out of their cells for classes to be held, I walk each of my tiers and meet with the inmates either in the dayroom or cell-side. I answer a lot of concern forms (that is usually a main source of communication in closed custody). I also will call several individuals throughout my day.

Favorite memory from work?

My favorite memory from work.... I have a few but the best one so far is while I was working at the yard (ISCI) I ran a psych tech group called Games Group for the inmate population in unit 16. Every Friday we would play a card game called Garbage. I am super competitive, so the first rule of Garbage was "Even if Lopez loses. She wins." The game got so big to where we had to have three decks.

What's a common question you get from customers?

"Can I get an exception?"

What do you like most about your job?

What I like most about my job... Not every day is the same... but what I like most about my job is when your teaching the inmates something and you can see a light-bulb go off. their eyes light up and you can see that everything you just explained, clicked.

Where are you from?

Born and raised Potato.

Where did you go to school?

I graduated with my BS in Psychology from Boise State University and I am currently finishing my Master Social Work degree at Northwest Nazarene University.

What do you like to do when you aren't working?

When I'm not at work I like to spend time with family, playing games like volleyball, spikeball, and Loteria. I like being outdoors and going to concerts.

Who are your favorite sports teams?

College Football: Oregon Ducks #WTD

Professional Football: Denver Bronco's

Baseball Team: Seattle Mariners

What's a fun fact about you many people may not know?

Growing up I rode horses and competed in rodeos for 12 years.



"This morning I got a frantic call from a county courthouse; it was Judge Hoaglund and his clerk. They were looking to do telephonic hearings with a couple of offenders. I was initially stunned, as I knew nothing about it. The clerk (a sweet lady named Janet) informed me that she had sent an email about it late yesterday, but later conceded that they had had a mix up and that they'd failed to send notices for the hearings. While I tried to figure out who they were talking about, I realized that these guys weren't even housed at my facility.

I did some looking and learned that they were actually housed at ISCC - I determined that the case manager for one of them was Alexandra Lopez. I gave her a call, and I was *so impressed* with the way she cheerfully offered her assistance in rounding up these offenders (who were housed in G-block, I believe) to make them available for these hearings on essentially ZERO notice. While I don't even know if the courts followed through, what mattered to me was how Alexandra responded to my rather desperate plea for help.

It's been a wild few weeks as we scramble to accommodate all these court hearings and rider reviews. I was just ridiculously pleased with Alexandra's "I-can-do-that!" attitude and I REALLY appreciate her help today. It makes me proud when we work well with outside law enforcement agencies and especially with our judges and court officials. I hope you'll take a moment to recognize Alexandra for her teamwork and positivity. She freaking rocks."

Program Manager Luke Kormylo